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Federal Council of the Churches of Christ...

"The great war" and the church

[New York?]

[1917?]

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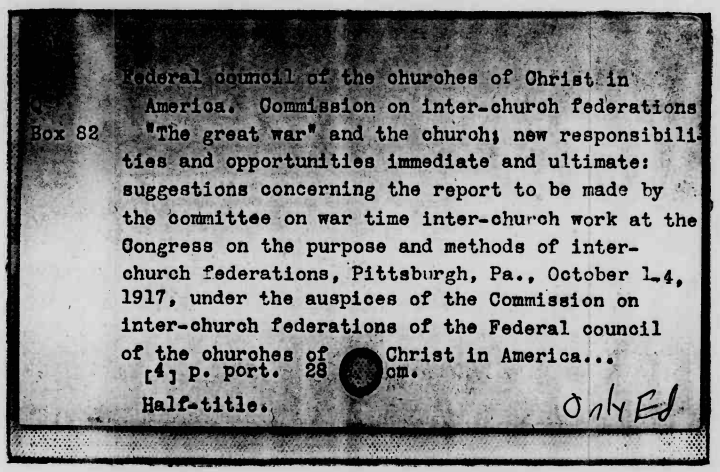

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"The Great War" and The Church

New Responsibilities and Opportunities
Immediate and Ultimate

Suggestions concerning the report to be made by

The Committee on War Time Inter-Church Work

at the

Congress on the Purpose and Methods of Inter-Church Federations

Pittsburgh, Pa. *October 1-4, 1917*

Under the Auspices of the

Commission on Inter-Church Federations
of the
Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America

FRED B. SMITH, *Chairman*
REV. ROY B. GUILD, *Executive Secretary*
ALFRED R. KIMBALL, *Treasurer*

FOREWORD

The Great War has intensified the demand in the United States for Christian co-operation. The Congress to be held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, October 1-4 for the discussion of the methods of greatest value to Inter-Church Federations was planned before the United States was forced into the conflict.

When the question was raised as to whether this Congress should be abandoned or not, it was quickly seen that the great problems confronting the churches made it more necessary than ever that Christian workers should take counsel with one another about the tasks of united Christianity. Instead of abandoning or postponing the Congress, the plans were enlarged.

The most striking addition to the program has been the appointing of a special committee to report upon work which ought to be undertaken by the churches near the mobilization and training camps. When all the churches are doing the most they can in their local fields there will still be an immense task which can only be adequately performed by the combined efforts put forth by Inter-Church Federations or Committees.

As the weeks and months pass it becomes steadily more apparent that the whole life of the church will be radically modified by the new world conditions, which are to emerge out of the chaos of the present. Therefore, the report of this committee becomes of vast significance not only as giving some standards for performing immediate duties in cities near the military camps, but also as a prophecy of the ultimate work of the combined churches of America.

The following suggestions will be of value to delegates in preparation for the discussion of this and of the other reports and the making of final recommendations.

THE SCOPE OF THE REPORT

Each one of the eight reports to be submitted at Pittsburgh, viz.: Comity, Community Evangelism, World Evangelism, Social Service, Religious Education, Religious Publicity, International Justice and Goodwill, Principles and Methods of Organization, will give attention to the program of work that will be most practical in the new conditions the church has to meet because of the war, but this report will give exclusive attention to this problem in its comprehensive form.

It is not the purpose of this special committee to administer any form of work during the war. After the Congress the report will be edited by the committee, any revisions being based on the discussion at the Congress. When completed the report will be issued for circulation and use by the churches everywhere. The committee will then disband, leaving the follow-up work to the Commission on Inter-Church Federations.

4 June 1920 Gnw

RELATIONSHIPS

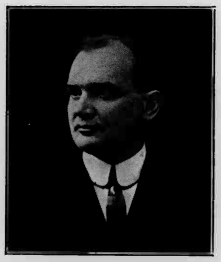
The committee will not in any way interfere with organizations or committees now in existence, either those of the Federal Council of Churches or Local Religious Committees, or other societies doing work in the cantonments, such as the War Council of the Young Men's Christian Association, the War Council of the Young Women's Christian Association, the War Work Committee of the International Sunday School Associations and the War Recreation Boards, which are doing special religious or philanthropic work for the army and navy. But it hopes to profit largely by the experiences and plans of these war time interchurch organizations. Much valuable information has already been secured by following this method. In practically all cities adjacent to the camps such committees have been at work.

CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE DELEGATES

Inasmuch as this committee is compelled to do its work in a much shorter period of time than full justice would demand, delegates are urged to secure every bit of information possible bearing upon this topic and be prepared to submit it for the consideration of the Congress as a whole as well as for the information of the members of the committee for final editing.

THE DELEGATES FROM THE CITIES NEAR THE ARMY AND NAVY CAMPS

In recognition of the fact that the first results of the strain upon American Christianity in the new order is being felt in the communities most adjacent to the great mobilization and training camps, particular attention will be given both in the report and at the Congress to the problems in these communities. It is probable that supplementary sessions in addition to the regular ones will be held for the delegates representing these cities or related to the work being done in them.



BISHOP FRANCIS J. McCONNELL, D.D., L.L.D.
Denver, Colorado

THE PROPHETIC MESSAGE

The general plan of the Congress contemplates the discussion of reports during the day and platform messages of a prophetic character in the evening. For the special war report Bishop Francis J. McConnell of Denver, Colorado, of the Methodist Episcopal Church will speak upon the subject **"The Stronger Church for the New World."**

INTENTIONAL SECOND EXPOSURE

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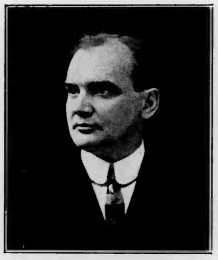

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General Information about the Congress

THE PROGRAM

No detailed program of the sessions will be published but it is expected that Honorable Carl E. Milliken, Governor of Maine, and Dr. John R. Mott will deliver the opening addresses on Monday night and Dr. Robert E. Speer the closing address Thursday.

COMMITTEE ON OBSERVATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

At the close of the first session each denomination will be asked to nominate one representative to serve upon this Committee.

REPORTS TO BE PRESENTED BY CHAIRMEN OF COMMISSIONS

Community Evangelism
REV. M. C. PEARSON, Indianapolis, Ind.

World Evangelism
MR. HARRY WADE HICKS, New York City

Social Service
REV. WORTH M. TIPPY, New York City

Religious Education
REV. B. S. WINCHESTER, New Haven, Ct.

Comity
REV. J. H. BOMBERGER, Cleveland, Ohio

Religious Publicity
REV. CHARLES STELZLE, New York City

International Justice and Goodwill
REV. SIDNEY L. GULICK, New York City

Principles and Methods of Organization
REV. HORACE F. HOLTON, St. Louis, Mo.

War Time Local Inter-church Work
MR. E. L. SHUEY, Dayton, Ohio

THE SPEAKERS FOR THE EVENING SESSIONS

The following have accepted the invitation to address the Congress, the acceptance being dependent upon war conditions: Dr. John R. Mott, Prof. Edward A. Steiner, Rev. Frank Mason North, D.D., Gov. Carl E. Milliken, Dr. Robert E. Speer, Rev. James E. Freeman, D.D., Mr. James A. Macdonald of Toronto, Canada, Mr. Daniel A. Poling.

THE DISCUSSION

That the discussion may be comprehensive in character, those wishing to speak will be asked to send names to the platform and indicate topic upon which remarks will be directed. After reports have been submitted by the various sub-commissions, a limit of three to five minutes will be observed by all speakers.

CONGRESS HEADQUARTERS

The sessions of the Congress will be held in the ball room of the William Penn Hotel. The headquarters for the Commission will be on the 17th floor. Arrangements for accommodations must be made by the delegates. This should be attended to at the earliest date possible. For further information about accommodations write to Rev. C. R. Zahniser, 245 Fourth Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa.

REGISTRATION OF DELEGATES

A registration fee of $2.00 will be charged and admission will be confined to delegates. Detailed information about the Congress will be furnished on application. The reports will be mailed to all delegates who send in the registration fee by September 24.

For further particulars write to

REV. ROY B. GUILD, Executive Secretary.
105 East 22nd Street, New York City.

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